

## Love so Scandalous

### I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-4 A.L. - Dinner/Theater. Haiti Women's Conf. HS Events. Unfolding Gospel Class
- B. Slide5 Ladies Worship Night - Fri June 29th. Mary Ives.
- C. Women's Ministry - Childcare Volunteers needed starting in Sept. For Ladies BS. For the MOMS Ministry. And host homes are needed, mornings or evenings. Ministry App
- D. If you missed last Sunday...please get a CD. It reveals the 2 names of the Unreached people groups that were are seeking to Reach...more details in Sept.
- E. Slide6 Fathers Day - in 2006 *The Nativity Story* had a scene where Mary & Joseph come upon a family whose mother was riding on a donkey that could go no further. It is obviously starving & dehydrated. That evening you see Joseph putting his portion of food behind him, only to later give it to their donkey when Mary is asleep.
  1. It is such a captivating picture of manhood. Men who sacrificially provide & who sacrificially protect...Thanks fathers.
- F. Prayer: Fathers. Heavenly Father, thank you for sacrificially providing your Son Jesus as One who could Speak God. One who could be Your Translator for us.

### II. Slide7 Intro: Love so Scandalous

- A. Forget eHarmony or christianmingle. If you need some tips on finding love, perhaps these weird and wonderful OT stories will inspire you. Julie Barrier
  1. Find an attractive prisoner of war, bring her home, shave her head, trim her nails, and give her a new wardrobe. Then she's yours. (Deut. 21:11-13)
  2. Even if no one is out there, just wander around a bit and you'll definitely find someone: Cain (Genesis 4:16-17).
  3. Don't be picky. Collect as many girls as you can get. Surely one will make you happy: Solomon (1 Kings 11:1-3).
  4. Cut 200 foreskins off of your future father-in-law's enemies and get his daughter as your prize: David (I Samuel 18:27).

5. Go to a party and hide. When the women come outside to dance, grab one and carry her off to be your wife: **Benjaminites** (Judges 21:19-2).
- a) Ok, not the best **dating advice** but how about God's **marriage advice** to his holy man, his prophet of the day. **\*Read 1:1-3**

### III. THE PREACHER & THE PROSTITUTE (1-3) HOSEA, GOD & GOMER

- A. **Israel** had such a convoluted concept of **love...as we do today**. Where, love can be **purchased**. Where, love is about **self**. Where, love is about **things**.
1. So God says I will **demonstrate** to my people...what **love** really is.
  2. Other than **the crucifixion, death, burial & res of Jesus...undoubtedly** the story of **Hosea & Gomer** is the greatest expression & demonstration of **God's love** in **all** of Scripture.
    - a) Brian, it's **Fathers Day**, couldn't you have **toned it down a notch?**
    - b) **No**, it's one of the most powerful demonstrations of **the Fathers Love**, so I feel it's **Our Fathers Day message from God to us**.
- B. **Minor Prophets**: Less pages, not less important. **Small in size, big in truth**. These are **minor** prophets...preaching a **major** message. (Hosea is actually larger than Daniel)
- C. **Book Overview**: **Ch.'s 1-3** Hosea's message. **Ch.'s 4-7** Israel's sins. **Ch.'s 8-10** Israel's judgment. **Ch.'s 11-14** Israel's future restoration.
- D. **Main Theme**: God's **faithful love** toward His **unfaithful people**.
- E. **Story in a nut shell**: Hosea married a woman who bore him 3 kids (2 prob not his). **Then** deserted him & became a prostitute. He then buys her back from the slave market. **This** was a sermon to the nation of Israel **to demonstrate God's never-failing love for His people**.
- F. **The state of Israel**: Prospering **outwardly**, but decaying **inwardly**.
  1. Enjoyed **moderate success** from conquering neighboring kingdoms, but they were **spiritually bankrupt** on the inside.
- G. **Hosea's name**: short for **Hoshiah**, *Yahweh has delivered*. **Salvation**.
  1. He's the **only** prophet to come from the **Northern** kingdom. [ministry lasted 40 yrs]
- H. **Master of imagery**: **Like a...** shows up 24 x's.

1. Like a: *dry land, wilderness, calf, moth, lion, morning cloud, flaming fire, silly dove, treacherous bow.*
- I. **The Times:** These are the last few swirls before the kingdom goes down the drain.
1. This book represents God's last gracious effort to *plug the drain*. [8th cent bc]
- J. **Contemporaries:** Jonah (who went to the Assyrians). Amos (northern Kingdom also). Isaiah & Micah (southern Kingdom).
1. Hosea's job is to be **prophet** to the **south** (4 kings) & to the **north** (1 king).
- K. **Thoughts from Hosea:** God, I signed up to be a **speaker** for you, that's what prophets do...**but an actor?** Can't I just **teach** Your Word, do I have to **live it out?** Marry a **prostitute?**...named **Gomer?** And You're telling me in advance, she is going to go back to the **lifestyle**, work in the **industry** again? And **raise kids** that probably aren't mine?
1. God first speaks **to** us, **before** He speaks **through** us.
    - a) **Isaiah** had to walk the streets *dressed like a prisoner of war* for 3 yrs.
    - b) **Jeremiah** walked around for 3 months *w/a yoke around his neck*.
    - c) **Ezekiel** even turned the painful *loss of his wife* into a sermon.

### IV.3 CHILDREN (4-9)

- A. **JEZREEL** (4,5)
- B. The name **Jezreel** means *God sows* **or** *God scatters*.
1. Hosea's prophecies often contain **wordplays** connected to **reversals of fortune**.
  2. **This name** can have *positive* **or** *negative* connotations, depending on whether the scattering is *punishment* **or** *planting*.
  3. This is God warning Israel of **a scattering** to take place **if they don't repent**.
- C. **Hosea had to live out 1st hand...** loving one who was **unfaithful**.
1. Marital **unfaithfulness** is unfortunately *nothing new*.
  2. Some of **you** have also have suffered through the same in your marriage **or** in a past relationship. **There must be no deeper wound**.
    - a) You truly have known *the fellowship of God's sufferings*.

- b) You have forgiven as God forgives. *And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you. Powerful!* Eph.4:32
3. Hosea was going to **feel**, on the **temporal scale**, what God was **feeling** on the **eternal scale**.
- D. **Poetic Justice** – Israel’s bow would be broken at the very site of Jehu’s sin, *Jezreel Valley*.
- E. **LO-RUHAMA** (6,7) *not pitied, unloved, no mercy* [next 2 kids are prob not his kids]
1. Mercy is actually a girl’s name, **but No-Mercy?** (Imagine naming your girl that)
  2. This is the situation of Israel today. God is providentially guiding the Jewish nation today, **yet** they are not enjoying God’s mercies as before.
- F. **LO-AMMI** (8,9) *not my people*
1. A **contrast** to the covenant formula Jeremiah gives us **You shall be My people, And I will be your God.** Jer.30:22
- G. **What mixed feelings might Hosea have about his 3 children?** (Are they mine?)
1. This speaks of God’s temporary rejection of the nation because of their sins.

## V. **BACK TO THE FUTURE (10,11-2:1)**

- A. **Note** the change to the *future tense*.
- B. **Reversal of Hope** - **from** a *rejection* from the family of God **to** a *restoration* to the family.
1. **Jezreel** will be moved from being **scattered by God to God sowing them back into the land to bear fruit for His Glory.**
  2. **Lo-Ammi** moves from being not my people to **My People.**
  3. **Lo-Ruhamah** moves from being no mercy to **mercy is shown.**
- C. **Ever meet someone whose name did or didn’t match their character or characteristics?**
1. Ever meet a **Mercy** who didn’t show Mercy? **Or** a **Grace** who didn’t show (a **Joy** w/no Joy; a **Patience** that didn’t have any; a **Hope** with none)
- D. **That’s ok, God’s into name changes** (Abram, Sarai, Simon, Saul). Hosea closes this chapter with a great affirmation of **hope**.

1. No matter what your birth-name is, He can give you a **new one**.
  2. Only God can give *new meanings* to **old names** & wipe out painful associations w/old places.
  3. *No matter how dark the day, God promises hope if we will return to Him, in sincere repentance.*
    - a) This morning if you are a **Gomer**, it's never too late to repent and return to God. *His compassion will renew and restore you.* No matter what your **past** may be, God will help you **experience real love**.
    - b) This morning if you are a **Hosea**, don't give up. *The great heart of God can teach you unconditional acceptance.* No perfect person exists, **but** a great heart attracts **great love**.
- E. Many of you remember the **Jim Bakker** scandal back in 1987. He was accused of paying hush money to his secretary for alleged rape, and later served 5 years in prison for various fraud charges. He tells the story in 1 of his books about a day in prison when he was in his overall's, cleaning toilets.
1. The guard came up to Jim to tell him he had a visitor. He said he didn't want to see anyone. Nor anyone to see him in that state. The guard told him he would want to see this person & he could change...but then he thought, this is what happened to me, & he went to see his visitor. It was **Billy Graham**. Who when seeing him took 3 steps forward, wrapped his arms around Jim, & Jim said he wept in his arms like a little child. *Realizing his name symbolized all that was corrupt & Billy's name, all that was pure.* I was being held in the embrace of a man who was **pure**.
    - a) If that **human** acceptance means so much to you & me, think about when **God** puts his arms around you & says, *welcome home*.
  2. **What kind of love is this? It is God's love.** No other love can be defined until that love is properly understood.
  3. Max Lucado, *junkyard wrecks and showroom models share equal space in God's garage.*
    - a) Believers, God will not let you go. He has handcuffed himself to you in love. And He owns the only key. You need not win his love. **You already have it.** And since you **can't win** it, you **can't lose** it.

4. God's love...*so Shocking, so Relentless, so Illogical, a Love so Scandalous*...for you *n* me.

5. Invitation -

F. Last Song: A song of **Praise**...for *His love*.

G. **End: Dad's** we have a small token of *our appreciation, recognition, and admiration* for you...  
pick up *a Dad's Root Beer* on your way out.